

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

IO-10 SAM-01 /079 W

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R 201647Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9308

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

UNCLAS ANKARA 3991

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: FURTHER TURKISH/REACTION TO ROME TALKS

REF: ANKARA 3948

1. TURKISH NEWS MEDIA MAY 20 CONTINUED TO GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE RECENT CAGLAYANGIL-BITSIOS TALKS IN ROME, WITH DIFFERENT ACCOUNTS FOCUSING ON BOTH THE POSITIVE AND DISCOURAGING ASPECTS OF THE MEETINGS.

A. TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION (TRT) QUOTED FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL AS SAYING ON HIS ARRIVAL IN ISTANBUL THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN A CLEAR, SINCERE AND REALISTIC ATMOSPHERE AND THAT A "GOOD DIALOGUE" HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED

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BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY.

B. LIBERAL DAILY MILLIYET CONTINUED ITS OPTIMISTIC TONE, REPORTING THAT "A STEP HAS BEEN TAKEN IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS." ALSO, THE MASS-CIRCULATION DAILY GUNAYDIN NOTES THAT HIGH-LEVEL TURKISH-GREEK TALKS WILL CONTINUE WITH THE NATO SUMMIT MEETING IN BRUSSELS.

C. HOWEVER, HURRIYET (TURKEY'S LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER) REPORTED THAT THE GREEKS HAD NOT RPT NOT CHANGED THEIR ATTITUDE ON THE ISSUES AND THAT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ROME TALKS DID NOT RPT NOT EXTEND BEYOND THE FACT THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD SAT DOWN AT THE TABLE TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE CYPRUS CRISIS. MODERATELY-LEFTIST CUMHURİYET SAID THAT, EXCEPT FOR AN AGREEMENT THAT THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS WOULD MEET AT BRUSSELS, THE ROME TALKS PRODUCED NO RPT NO CONCRETE RESULTS.

D. HURRIYET ALSO CARRIED AN OPEN LETTER TO GREEK PRIMIN CARAMANLIS FROM METIN TOKER (SON-IN-LAW OF THE LATE ISMET INONU), URGING CARAMANLIS TO FOLLOW INONU'S EXAMPLE IN SEEKING A BILATERAL SOLUTION TO GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS AND TO REFRAIN FROM TRYING TO AROUSE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST TURKEY. "THE TIME IS RIPE FOR DISPLAYING MUTUAL GOODWILL," WROTE TOKER.

2. A FEW EDITORIAL COMMENTS THAT HAVE APPEARED TO DATE HAVE TAKEN A NEGATIVE VIEW OF THE TALKS.

A. MUMTAZ SOYSAL (MILLIYET) SAID THE CAGLAYANGIL-BITSIOS MEETINGS WERE THE RESULT OF "MATCHMAKING" EFFORTS BY U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WILLIAM EAGLETON AND WERE "FORCED" ON TURKEY IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT AMERICAN INTERESTS.

B. YASAR AYSEV (BARIS) COMMENTED THAT WHILE THE BEGINNING OF BILATERAL TALKS COULD BE CONSIDERED A FAVORABLE STEP, NOT AN INCH OF DISTANCE HAD BEEN COVERED. HE SAID CAGLAYANGIL WAS APPARENTLY TRYING TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION TO THE AMERICAN CONGRESS THAT TURKEY HAS ENGAGED IN A DIALOGUE WITH GREECE AND THAT POSITIVE STEPS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT HAVE BEEN TAKEN. HOWEVER, HE CONCLUDED, IT WOULD BE USELESS TO EXPECT ANY RESULT FROM THE FORTHCOMING NATO SUMMIT. MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA03991
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750177-0920
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750533/aaaabdka.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ANKARA 3948
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 DEC 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 DEC 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER TURKISH/REACTION TO ROME TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, (BITSIOS, DIMITRIOS), (CAGLAYANGIL, IHSAN SABRI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006